



## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 17, 2011

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# Hunters Bag 15,121 Birds During 2011 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season

*Wettest April on record contributed to lower harvest totals*

SPRINGFIELD – Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary statewide total of 15,121 wild turkeys during the 2011 Spring Turkey Season. The 2011 total compares with the statewide turkey harvest of 16,565 in 2010. Hunters took a state-record 16,605 turkeys during the spring season in 2006.

Hunters this spring took a preliminary total of 6,469 wild turkeys during all seasons in the South Zone, a decrease from the harvest of 6,916 last year in the south. The North Zone total of 8,652 wild turkeys compares with last year's total of 9,649 in the north. Harvests during the 2006 record year were 6,530 in the south and 10,075 in the north. All results include harvest during the Youth Turkey Seasons.

“This year's wild turkey season will probably be best remembered for being the wettest April in recorded history,” said Paul Brewer, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wild Turkey Project Manager. “Hunters did well on days when the weather was cooperative, but those days were few and far between. We are certainly hopeful for some better weather during the remainder of this spring and into early summer.”

In spite of the 93 percent increase in average rainfall statewide, harvest was down only five percent from the previous five-year average. Flood conditions and weather during the next several weeks will be an important factor affecting nesting success.

The 2011 Spring Turkey seasons were April 4-May 5 in the South Zone and April 11-May 12 in the North Zone. Youth Spring Turkey seasons were March 26-27 in the South Zone and April 2-3 in the North Zone.

The top five counties for turkey harvest in the South Zone this spring were Jefferson (402), Pope (356), Union (324), Randolph (321), and Wayne (314).

The top five counties for spring turkey harvest in the North Zone this year were JoDaviess (534), Pike (522), Fulton (449), Adams (415), and Macoupin (343).

The table below includes the preliminary 2011 county-by-county spring turkey harvest results and comparable totals for 2010.

<b>County</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Adams	406	415
Alexander	142	125
Bond	179	157
Boone	50	63
Brown	270	264
Bureau	172	105
Calhoun	289	305
Carroll	229	179
Cass	292	261
Champaign	24	17
Christian	49	42
Clark	161	147
Clay	206	201
Clinton	121	98
Coles	30	26
Crawford	143	170
Cumberland	67	52
DeKalb	15	13
DeWitt	44	39
Edgar	98	90
Edwards	90	87
Effingham	93	95
Fayette	208	213
Franklin	175	200
Fulton	455	449
Gallatin	134	109
Greene	257	236
Grundy	58	44
Hamilton	230	204
Hancock	330	269
Hardin	168	153
Henderson	154	128
Henry	61	62
Iroquois	58	50

Jackson	298	287
Jasper	146	125
Jefferson	396	402
Jersey	245	213
JoDaviess	628	534
Johnson	298	269
Kankakee	38	37
Kendall	30	20
Knox	286	243
LaSalle	181	143
Lawrence	141	108
Lee	104	90
Livingston	17	21
Logan	47	31
Macon	17	26
Macoupin	346	343
Madison	291	243
Marion	353	298
Marshall	94	69
Mason	197	188
Massac	89	87
McDonough	132	119
McHenry	37	38
McLean	63	69
Menard	114	112
Mercer	192	178
Monroe	169	163
Montgomery	212	186
Morgan	225	158
Moultrie	22	21
Ogle	197	158
Peoria	201	192
Perry	233	216
Piatt	10	7
Pike	527	522
Pope	397	356
Pulaski	144	140
Putnam	60	42
Randolph	351	321
Richland	108	101
Rock Island	221	191

Saline	132	134
Sangamon	101	98
Schuyler	348	292
Scott	105	96
Shelby	66	70
St. Clair	160	149
Stark	15	4
Stephenson	181	169
Tazewell	86	64
Union	356	324
Vermilion	173	127
Wabash	36	28
Warren	65	69
Washington	166	153
Wayne	339	314
White	132	165
Whiteside	186	143
Will	57	60
Williamson	292	274
Winnebago	160	173
Woodford	91	80